

German Democratic Republic

25X1 INFORMATION ON REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

25X1 the most important construction projects for 1952

25X1 are the construction of a new shunting station at Wuhlheide which will be the largest shunting station in the GDR, construction at the Metallurgical Combine East, expansion of the border stations Frankfurt/Oder and Kuestrin-Kietz, and improvements around the Soviet maneuver area Jueterbof.

25X1 the supply situation of the Reichsbahn is extremely poor because the rails produced by the only rail rolling plant in the GDR, the Maxhütte in Unterwellenborn near Saalfeld, are of inferior quality, because the tie storage yard Zernstorf near Koenigsusterhausen has a supply for only 75 kilometers of new construction (120,000 ties), representing a replacement ratio for the Reichsbahn network of only 0.5 percent, and because of a shortage of cement and ferrous and non-ferrous metals in the GDR. The Reichsbahn attempts to remedy the situation by dismantling less important sections of track.

25X1 The coal inventory is about half of the corresponding amount of the previous year and barring quick remedy, serious supply difficulties may be expected during the winter months to come. The backlog of cars has tripled as compared with the middle of September 1951. The operating car park lies above the daily plan figure of 80,000 cars.

25X1 In the fall of 1951 a reorganization of the Reichsbahn is to take place, shifting much administrative and accounting responsibility from the Directorates to the division level.

25X1 the freight car inventory as of 1 August 1951 (104,810 freight cars). In addition, there are 8,700 foreign freight cars which, on orders of the Soviet Control Commission, are to remain in the GDR. There are 633 locomotives in the GDR. - The construction of second tracks for the border bridges across the Oder River at Kuestrin and Frankfurt/Oder has been planned.

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I. CONSTRUCTION IN BALTIC PORTS. II. GERMAN-POLISH ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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Until the end of 1951, 2,600,000 Deutsche marks (East) had been made available for expansion of the port of Rostock. The port of Rostock is guarded by a People's Police detachment of 40 men; In addition, the Strandstrasse (beach street) by a border police group of 6 men. Several storage and loading facilities are mentioned. By the end of 1950 the port's annual trans-shipment capacity had reached about 3 million tons as compared with 300,000 tons in 1936. - Along the lower Warnow River the Fish Combine Rostock is under construction on the site of the former Heinkel Aircraft Works in Rostock-Marienehe. The combine will include a fish processing plant, ice plant, refrigerated and storage rooms, and a workshop for luggers. Its construction will cost 16 million DM (East). The present fishing fleet consists of 25 luggers and is to be increased to 30 luggers.

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Two new loading bridges with an annual capacity of 216,000 tons have been completed in Warnemuende.

The Peene shipyard in Wolgast, which since the beginning of 1951 is a base for the sea police of the GDR, is manufacturing three types of mine clearing devices: for acoustic mines, for magnetic mines, and for electric mines. The devices are described in short.

On order of the Soviets, the Neptun shipyard in Rostock is preparing construction plans for a 2,000 ton destroyer with airplane aboard. The vessel is supposed to have a length of 156 meters, width of 15 meters, and draught of 5 meters, furthermore a catapult installation for airplanes, and radar equipment. It will be armed with three 12.7 centimeter guns, four antiaircraft guns, one torpedo ~~xxx~~ launching mechanism, and depth charge launching equipment.

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The GDR Ministry for Machine Building requested Polish experience reports on four subjects recently, two of which were postponed, and the other two (use of automatic equipment for electric welding in construction of ocean-going ships, and manufacture of ocean-going ships in mass production with prefabricated? units of 40 - 50 tons weight each) were accepted by Poland. Several Polish requests for information from the GDR, some of which were withdrawn, others could not be handled by the GDR. A number of German people-owned enterprises are listed which are engaged in supplying the information requested by Poland.

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